AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-50. (Cancelled)

51. (Currently Amended) ~~The computer-readable medium according to Claim 50,~~ One or more computer-readable medium containing a plurality of instructions which when executed cause a system to perform acts comprising:

receiving a new annotation object;

determining an annotation identifier of the new annotation object;

determining a first set of version identifiers identifying each version of a first multimedia content to which the annotation object corresponds;

determining a first media characteristic that associates the new annotation object to a portion of a version of the first multimedia content;

storing the annotation identifier, the first set of version identifiers and the first media characteristic as a first annotation entry in a metadata store; and

storing the new annotation object in a content store;

wherein determining the first media characteristic that associates the new annotation object to a portion of the first multimedia content comprises:

determining a target media characteristic that associates the new annotation object to a portion of a target version of the first multimedia content; and

converting the target media characteristic to a base media characteristic.

52. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 51, wherein the target media characteristic is converted to the base media characteristic as a function of a temporal parameter of the target version of the first multimedia content and a temporal parameter of a base version of the first multimedia content.

53. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 52, wherein the base version of the first multimedia content comprises a particular combination of a plurality of individual media streams.

54. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 52, wherein the base version of the first multimedia content is the originally created version of the multimedia content.

55. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 52, wherein the target version of the first multimedia content comprises a given combination of a plurality of individual media streams that creation of the new annotation object is based upon.

56-59. (Cancelled)

60. (Currently Amended) ~~The computer-readable medium according to Claim 59,~~ One or more computer-readable medium containing a plurality of instructions which when executed cause a system to perform acts comprising:

receiving a new annotation object;

determining an annotation identifier of the new annotation object;

determining a first set of version identifiers identifying each version of a first multimedia content to which the annotation object corresponds;

determining a first media characteristic that associates the new annotation object to a portion of a version of the first multimedia content;

storing the annotation identifier, the first set of version identifiers and the first media characteristic as a first annotation entry in a metadata store; and

storing the new annotation object in a content store

further comprising:

determining a version identifier of a second multimedia content being presented to a user;

identifying each of a plurality of annotation entries in the metadata store that contain the received version identifier;

retrieving each of a plurality of annotation objects respectively corresponding to each of the identified plurality of annotation entries from the content store; and

rendering the plurality of annotation objects concurrently with the second multimedia content, wherein each of the plurality of annotation objects is presented proximate a respective media characteristic identified in the corresponding one of the identified plurality of annotation entries,

wherein the first annotation entry further includes one or more determined items of information selected from a group consisting of an author, a creation time, a title, a related annotation identifier, an annotation set identifier and a user-defined property, further comprising ordering the rendering of a set of the plurality of annotation objects as a function of the related annotation identifier contained in each of the identified plurality of annotation entries that contain ~~substantially~~ the same media characteristic identifier.

61. (Currently Amended) ~~The computer-readable medium according to Claim 59,~~ One or more computer-readable medium containing a plurality of instructions which when executed cause a system to perform acts comprising:

receiving a new annotation object;

determining an annotation identifier of the new annotation object;

determining a first set of version identifiers identifying each version of a first multimedia content to which the annotation object corresponds;

determining a first media characteristic that associates the new annotation object to a portion of a version of the first multimedia content;

storing the annotation identifier, the first set of version identifiers and the first media characteristic as a first annotation entry in a metadata store; and

storing the new annotation object in a content store

further comprising:

determining a version identifier of a second multimedia content being presented to a user;

identifying each of a plurality of annotation entries in the metadata store that contain the received version identifier;

retrieving each of a plurality of annotation objects respectively corresponding to each of the identified plurality of annotation entries from the content store; and

rendering the plurality of annotation objects concurrently with the second multimedia content, wherein each of the plurality of annotation objects is presented proximate a respective media characteristic identified in the corresponding one of the identified plurality of annotation entries,

wherein the first annotation entry further includes one or more determined items of information selected from a group consisting of an author, a creation time, a title, a related annotation identifier, an annotation set identifier and a user-defined property

further comprising grouping the rendering of a set of the plurality of annotation objects as a function of the annotation set identifier contained in each of the identified plurality of annotation entries.

62. (Cancelled)

63. (Previously Presented) One or more computer-readable medium containing a plurality of instructions which when executed cause a system to perform acts comprising:

receiving an indication of a Real-time Transport Protocol (RTP) address of a current multimedia content being presented to a user;

identifying one of a plurality of annotation collections having an RTP address corresponding to the received RTP address;

identifying each of a plurality of annotation entries of the one of the plurality of annotation collections;

determining a current media characteristic. of the current multimedia content; converting the current media characteristic of the current multimedia content to a base media characteristic; and

rendering each of a plurality of annotation objects corresponding to an annotation identifier contained in each of the identified plurality of annotation entries, wherein each annotation object is rendered concurrently with the current multimedia content proximate the respective base media characteristic identified in the respective one of the plurality of annotation entries.

64. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 63, further comprising:

receiving a first annotation object corresponding to a first multimedia content;

creating a first annotation entry comprising;

a first annotation identifier corresponding to the first annotation object;

a first media characteristic for synchronizing the first annotation object with a first portion of the first multimedia content; and

a first set of version identifiers corresponding to a plurality of versions of the first multimedia content;

storing the first annotation entry; and

storing the first annotation object.

65. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 64, further comprising:

receiving a second annotation object corresponding to the first multimedia content;

creating a second annotation entry comprising:

a second annotation identifier corresponding to the second annotation object;

a second media characteristic for synchronizing the second annotation object with a second portion of the first multimedia content; and

the first set of version identifiers corresponding to the plurality of version of the first streaming multimedia content;

storing the second annotation entry; and

storing the second annotation object.

66. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 65, wherein the first annotation entry and the second annotation entry are stored in a first annotation collection.

67. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 66, further comprising:

receiving a third annotation object corresponding to a second multimedia content;

creating a third annotation entry comprising:

a third annotation identifier corresponding to the third annotation object;

a third media characteristic for synchronizing the third annotation object with a first portion of the second multimedia content; and

a second set of version identifiers corresponding to a plurality of versions of the second multimedia content;

storing the third annotation entry; and

storing the third annotation object.

68. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 67, wherein the third annotation entry is stored in a second annotation collection.

69. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 64, further comprising:

receiving a second annotation object corresponding to a second multimedia content;

generating a second annotation entry comprising:

a second annotation identifier corresponding to the second annotation object;

a second media characteristic for synchronizing the second annotation object with a first portion of the second multimedia content; and

a second set of version identifiers corresponding to a plurality of version of the second multimedia content;

storing the second annotation entry; and

storing the second annotation object.

70. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 69, wherein: the first annotation entry is stored in a first annotation collection; and the second annotation entry is stored in a second annotation collection.

71-82. (Cancelled)